

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why do our children need an iPad?

Having good ICT skills is becoming a basic requirement of any employer. Children need to be prepared for an increasingly digital world, and this will give them a unique opportunity to be highly skilled.

Education research has shown that good, home access to technology has a positive impact on a child's educational results; it often motivates them to do their schoolwork, their work is better presented so their self-esteem grows; and they can explore subjects that interest them in their own time. Having access to a device at school and at home helps to ensure that schoolwork continues seamlessly.

What if we do not want to take part?

While we would encourage all families to take part, it is your right to choose not to do so. It is important however, that as many families contribute as possible, to help the school fund all the elements of providing this tech-enabled learning. If the school cannot raise enough funds from parents/carers it may be that the school will be unable to run the Programme at all. Contributions help ensure that every child can benefit from access to an iPad.

Who owns the Device?

Your contribution is a charitable donation towards the programme, not a payment towards the device. Your donation does not cover the full cost of running the programme. Additional money will be provided from school funds and grants we may win from other sources. The school will contact you directly at the end of the scheme regarding the final payment to keep the device.

What happens if the Device gets damaged or lost?

The iPads will be insured for accidental damage and theft through the school's Repair Services (subject to exclusions shown in our iPad Repair Terms & Conditions). Families will have to pay a repair fee towards the cost of replacement or repair. Please see the school's iPad web pages for more details.

Why can't the school provide these for nothing?

The school receives some funding for ICT in school, and this is spent on the network, staff, software, ICT suites, printers, training etc. Equipment for use at home and for personal use by your children is over and above this, which is why schools ask families to contribute. Without that help the Programme would not be able to go ahead.

What happens if I cannot make the donations, you are asking for?

No child will be excluded from access to an iPad because of their parents' 'financial circumstances so please contact the iPads Administrator at rsipads@rs.rkt.co.uk to discuss the options available, or if your financial circumstances change during the term of the scheme.

Can I donate by cash or cheque?

No. Collecting cash involves a lot more work and administration costs for the school, so we ask for payments by direct debit.

What happens if I change my mind in a few months' time?

This would give the school a big problem as the decision to go ahead and buy the devices for the children will be based on the initial level of support from our parents.

Changing your mind halfway through the programme would compromise the school's finances. This is a commitment to the children that needs to be seen through.

Why am I donating to the Digital Poverty Alliance ?

The Digital Poverty Alliance is a registered education charity collecting monthly parental donations on our behalf to save us administration costs. They collect your donation and apply for any Gift Aid (tax relief), before granting the money back to us to pay the bills.

Do I have to sign the Gift Aid declaration?

It is vital that you do this if you are a UK taxpayer or the cost of administering the collection of donations will come out of the donations themselves. Gift Aid applies to all contributions so please do sign it if you are a taxpayer.

How much do we need to donate?

We ask that you make the donation we ask for in our invitation letter. This is currently £10 a month for the Y7 Scheme 2025 and £17 a month for the Y10 Scheme 2025.

Will we be able to access the Internet?

If you have internet at home the iPad will be able to connect to that. A wireless router that plugs into your internet allows the device to be wirelessly enabled. Alternatively, the iPad can connect to Wi-Fi wirelessly from a mobile phone.

Why should I donate if others do not?

We will only run this programme if parents want it and are prepared to contribute. While a small number of families in difficult circumstances can be accommodated, the school will not be able to provide the programme to your children unless there is widespread support. Please help by supporting the scheme and encouraging other parents to do so too.

Will we need to buy any other equipment?

Ideally, every pupil should have access to the Internet at home. You may also want to get a printer so that your child can print off their work, but this is not essential as they can always do this when they are in school. You may also need to buy replacement chargers and cases if they become damaged, as the school does not provide these free of charge under the scheme. The school offers replacement cases for purchase at reasonable cost.

What happens when I sign the Gift Aid declaration?

The Digital Poverty software holds this data as proof to the Inland Revenue from whom they collect the additional 25% in Gift Aid.

Who do I tell if I change my bank account?

There is no need to contact the school if your bank details change. Parents can do this by themselves by logging into the Parent Payment Portal at the Digital Poverty Alliance at <https://digitalpovertyalliance.beaconforms.com/form/7f7507f3>

This portal also allows parents to make up missed contributions and see the status of their child's account.

What if I have a query about my payments that is not covered by the Parent Payment Portal?

The Digital Poverty Alliance can help you via their Parent Contact Form.

You can find this at

https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=Lh6fig5BcUyDDd_0t2DPGO_MGNwsTHTVLqyzOlcvOCrNUN0s3V0pENk8xU0NHUIRQTUg3NFpIUkEwMS4u&route=shorturl